



The President's Daily Brief

14 January 1972

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

14 January 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

[REDACTED] Soviets
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] (Page 1)

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The North Vietnamese continue to move several divisions toward the northern part of South Vietnam. (Page 2)

Tokyo will send a ranking diplomat to Hanoi next month to conclude arrangements for an exchange of permanent trade missions. (Page 3)

Pakistan has broken relations with three Communist states because of their recognition of Bangladesh. (Page 4)

The junta led by Lieutenant Colonel Acheampong apparently has gained control in Accra. (Page 5)

Fighting continues around Long Tieng. (Page 6)

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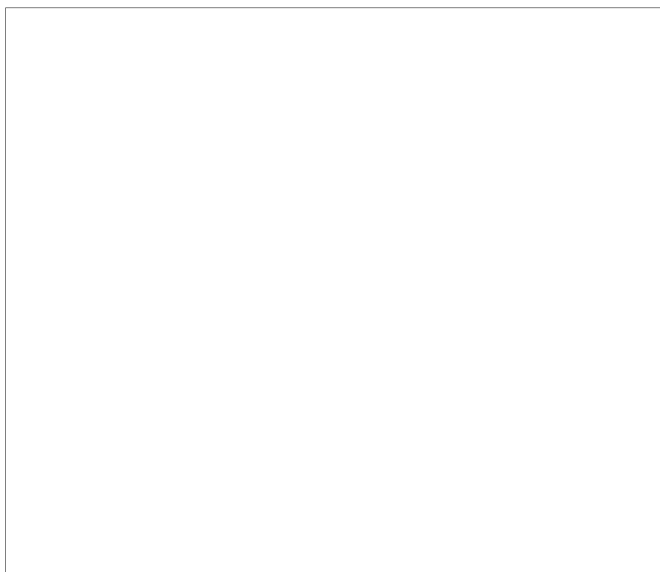
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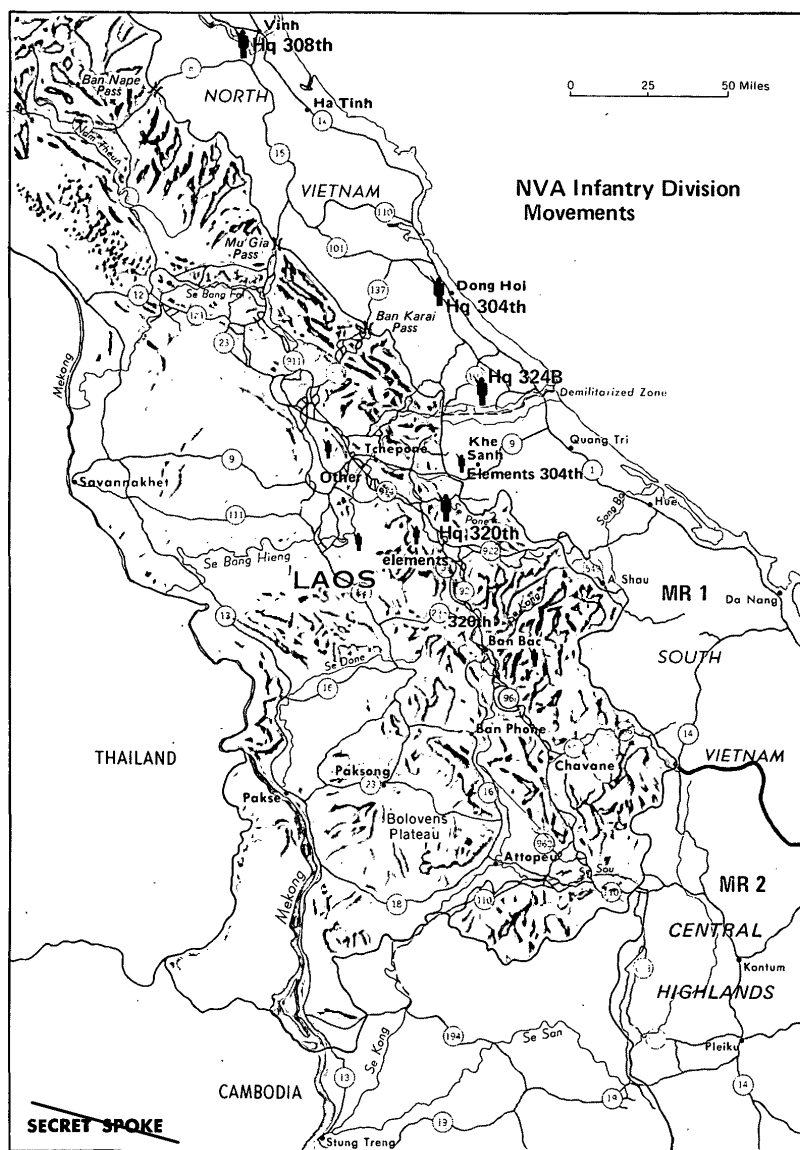


Satellite photography of last November shows a considerable amount of debris at one of the Tyuratam launch complexes which has been used exclusively for initial R&D testing of all four versions of the SS-9 ICBM. The debris, which was not present in September photography, was seen just down-range of one of the two launch pads at the facility, apparently the result of an explosion of a missile shortly after lift-off. No damage was apparent which would preclude the continued use of the complex for testing.

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VIETNAM

The North Vietnamese are continuing to move several divisions into or toward the northern part of South Vietnam.

--Intercepts show that elements of the 304th Division, recently based near Dong Hoi, have been in the Khe Sanh area of South Vietnam since late December. The concentration includes at least one regiment [REDACTED]

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--The 320th Division headquarters and elements of its subordinate regiments set out from the vicinity of Ha Tinh in mid-December for South Vietnam's central highlands and are now in southern Laos. An intercept indicates that at least one element of the 320th is nearing its destination.

--Other intercepts indicate that the 324B Division is moving southward within North Vietnam. Earlier communications from the 324B have suggested it is heading for northern South Vietnam, where it has sometimes operated in the past.

--The 308th Division also recently moved from the Hanoi area to the vicinity of Vinh. Communications suggest it will remain in southern North Vietnam, thus freeing other infantry forces for the fighting in the South.

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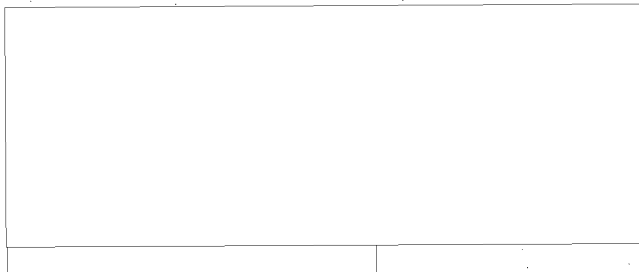
[REDACTED] The North Vietnamese divisions should complete their moves within the next month, greatly increasing the Communists' capability to launch offensives in the western parts of South Vietnam's Military Regions 1 and 2. By keeping a sizable combat force just north of the Demilitarized Zone, the North Vietnamese will also be in a position rapidly to send additional troops across the border should the need arise.

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JAPAN - NORTH VIETNAM

Tokyo will send a ranking diplomat to North Vietnam in mid-February to conclude arrangements for an exchange of permanent trade missions, according to Foreign Ministry officials. The Japanese office in Hanoi will be manned by two or three representatives of the private Japan-Vietnam trade association. The mission members will have no diplomatic immunity or privileges. The Japanese will inform Saigon of their plans later this month and offer appropriate reassurances that their moves indicate no change in or lessening of their support for South Vietnam.

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PAKISTAN

In the past two days Islamabad has broken diplomatic relations with Poland, Mongolia, and Bulgaria because of their recognition of Bangladesh. The Bhutto government explained that the status of East Pakistan was not yet settled and noted the obstacle posed by the continued presence of the Indian Army.

The phrasing of the explanation suggests that President Bhutto seeks only to delay rather than to prevent recognition by other nations. Although Bhutto has publicly stated that he will not automatically cut ties with those recognizing Bangladesh, Pakistani public opinion still could force a break with any additional nations that Islamabad believes are acting too fast. Recognition by a country that is of some importance to Pakistan, such as the UK or USSR, would severely test the policy.

We believe that Pakistan's action will in fact give Moscow pause. The Soviets hope to maintain their presence in Islamabad and before they recognize the Dacca government would prefer that non-Communist countries test Islamabad's resolve. Yesterday Burma became the first non-Communist country, apart from India and Bhutan, to recognize Bangladesh.

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GHANA

The junta led by Lieutenant Colonel Acheampong gradually gained control of Accra yesterday without any significant armed clashes or bloodshed. A few officials in the capital who tried to rally loyal security forces surrendered shortly after the police moved in mid-afternoon in support of the rebels.

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Acheampong has suspended the constitution, banned political activity, dissolved parliament, and appointed a "National Redemption Council" to run the government. In addition to Acheampong and one civilian, the council is composed of five undistinguished and largely unknown military officers.

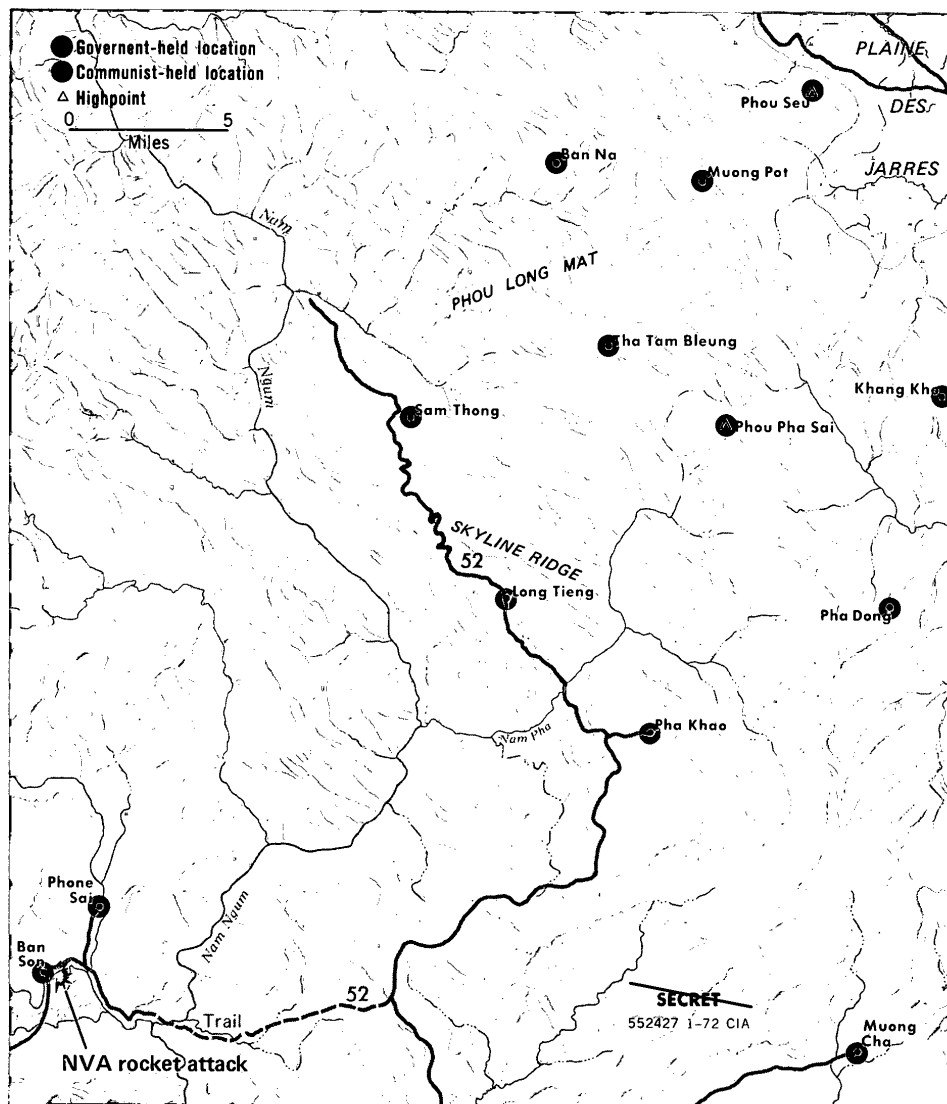
The motivation for the coup appears to lie in the personal bitterness of Acheampong and others over their recent loss of pay and perquisites and over other "interference" in military matters by the Busia regime. Acheampong especially resented seeing officers he considers his inferiors promoted ahead of him. His public justification for the coup has emphasized general economic grievances, particularly those of Ghana's hard-pressed urban dwellers. Acheampong has announced that he will review recently imposed austerity measures, along with Busia's priority commitment to rural development.

The 40-year-old Acheampong studied at the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth in 1968-69, and is considered very favorably inclined toward the US. Neither he nor any others so far identified with his junta appear to have any connection with former dictator Kwame Nkrumah

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LONG TIENG AREA



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NOTES

Laos: Fighting is still going on in Long Tieng valley and nearby positions. This morning tactical activity is reported to be light. Yesterday the area was again subjected to 130-mm. artillery fire. To the southwest of Long Tieng, the Communists have launched a small rocket attack on Ban Son, the new government support base and the center of the Meo refugee settlements. There is no evidence that any main force North Vietnamese units have moved into this area, but a threat to Ban Son or the refugee settlements could well cause Meo irregulars to desert the Long Tieng area.

Israel-Egypt: The Israelis and Egyptians have increased reconnaissance overflights in recent days.

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The Egyptians flew over Israeli positions on the canal's East bank on Tuesday, their second known penetration of Israeli-held Sinai since early November.

USSR-Cuba: A Soviet oceangoing rescue tug is now nearing Cuban waters, almost certainly to relieve a similar tug that has been supporting Soviet naval operations in Cuba since September 1970. The Kashin-class destroyer and F-class diesel attack submarine which arrived in Cuba last October continue to operate from Mariel

Two Osa-class cruise missile patrol boats arrived in Havana on Wednesday after being towed across the Atlantic. The Soviets are likely to conduct familiarization training with the Cubans before the Osas are turned over to the Cuban Navy.

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